



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm

WATER'S EDGE
RESTAURANT & BAR



Happy Hour
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10
KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

Happy Hour
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

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Trump official orders consumer protection agency to stop work

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has ordered the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to stop nearly all its work, effectively shutting down an agency that was created to protect consumers after the 2008 financial crisis and subprime mortgage-lending scandal.

Russell Vought, the newly installed director of the Office of Management and Budget, directed the CFPB, in a Saturday night email confirmed by The Associated Press, to stop work on proposed rules, to suspend the effective dates on any rules that were finalized but not yet effective, and to stop investigative work and not begin any new inves-



Russell Vought, President Donald Trump's choice for Director of the Office of Management and Budget, appears before the Senate Budget Committee during a hearing to examine his nomination, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Jan. 22, 2025.

Associated Press

tigations. The agency has been a target of conservatives since President Barack Obama pushed to include it in the 2010 financial reform legislation that followed the

2007-2008 financial crisis. The email also ordered the bureau to "cease all supervision and examination activity." Since the CFPB is a creation

of Congress, it would require a separate act of Congress to formally eliminate it. But the head of the agency has discretion over what enforcement actions to take, if any.

Yet Elon Musk commented, "CFPB RIP" on social media site X on Friday. And the CFPB homepage on the Internet was down Sunday, replaced by a message reading "page not found."

Also late Saturday, Vought said in a social media post that the CFPB would not withdraw its next round of funding from the Federal Reserve, adding that its current reserves of \$711.6 million is "excessive." Congress directed the bureau to be funded by the Fed to insulate it from political pressures.

"This spigot, long contributing to CFPB's unaccountability, is now being turned off," Vought said on X.

The CFPB says that it has obtained nearly \$20 billion in financial relief for U.S. consumers since its founding in the form of canceled debts, compensation, and reduced loans. Last month, the bureau sued Capital One for allegedly misleading consumers about its offerings for high-interest savings accounts — and "cheating" customers out of more than \$2 billion in lost interest payments as a result.

Dennis Kelleher, president of Better Markets, an advocacy group, said, "that's why Wall Street's biggest banks and Trump's billionaire allies hate the bureau: it's an effective cop on the finance beat and has stood side-by-side with hundreds of millions of Americans — Republicans and Democrats — battling financial predators, scammers, and crooks."

The administration's move against the CFPB also highlights the tensions between Trump's more populist promises to lower costs for working-class families and his pledge to reduce government regulation.

During the campaign, Trump said he would cap credit card interest rates at 10%, after they had soared to record levels above 20%, on average, as the Federal Reserve lifted interest rates in 2022 and 2023. The CFPB

had started work on how that proposal would be implemented.

The bureau can still take complaints, but it can't conduct exams or pursue existing investigations, according to a person familiar with the agency who insisted on anonymity to discuss CFPB business. The memo is also interpreted as blocking it from communicating with companies it regulates, consumer advocates or other outside groups.

Musk's team would also have access to complaints, investigations and regulatory oversight data. The access raises uncomfortable questions if Musk's company X launches a payments system as the CFPB has data on competitors such as Cash App, the person said. Vought's email follows a similar directive from Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent Feb. 3 and is the latest move by the Trump administration to rapidly curtail the work of federal agencies that they have deemed excessive.

Obama spearheaded the creation of the bureau in the wake of the 2007-2008 housing bubble and financial crisis, which was caused in part by fraudulent mortgage lending. It was the brainchild of Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren and has attracted lawsuits from large banks and financial industry trade associations. "Vought is giving big banks and giant corporations the green light to scam families," Warren said.

"I know that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is a favorite whipping boy of Republicans on this Committee, but the CFPB is the main agency in our government that is actively working to stop unfair de-banking," she said at a hearing of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. Vought's email said that President Donald Trump had made him acting director of the CFPB on Friday. Trump fired the previous director of the bureau, Rohit Chopra, on Feb. 1. Vought was an architect of Project 2025, a policy blueprint for the Trump White House that Trump tried to disavow during last year's campaign. □

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As female representation hits new highs among states, constitutions still assume officials are male

By SEJAL GOVINDARAO

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — South Dakota's constitution refers to the governor as a "he."

But for the past six years, the governor was a "she" — Kristi Noem, the first female to hold the position there. The conservative Republican pushed a constitutional amendment to change the gendered language. But voters rejected the measure in the 2024 general election that also would have been inclusive of nonbinary people.

Across the nation, state constitutions presume officeholders are male, and they increasingly are outdated. This year, a record of 13 women were serving as governor before Noem stepped down to serve in President Donald Trump's Cabinet. In state legislatures, 2,469 women are serving, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

Most states haven't modernized their constitutions to reflect the rise of women in politics. Among those that have are New York's, which became gender-neutral in 2001, and Vermont's, where voters approved a change from "men" to "persons" in 1994.

An effort in Washington state to update the state's constitution died in a legislative committee in 2023.



The South Dakota Capitol stands in Pierre, S.D., Jan. 10, 2024.

Associated Press

In Connecticut, state Sen. Mae Flexer says she'll make another run at revising the constitution in this year's legislative session. Some states, like Nevada and California, have made changes within their legislatures to refer to lawmakers as assemblymembers instead of assemblymen or assemblywomen.

"Language matters, it conveys a message about values, it conveys a message about who belongs," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics.

Noem began her 2023 State of the State address with a

call to update the state's constitution, which was created in 1889.

"The South Dakota state constitution requires the governor to begin each legislative session by giving the Legislature information concerning the affairs of the state and recommending the measures he considers necessary," Noem said. "Notice I didn't say 'she.' The constitution doesn't say she, and maybe we should fix that sometime."

A few months later, Noem signed a bill to update male references to more gender-neutral language in state law, such as changing "he

shall deem" to "the Governor deems." But amending the state's founding document requires voter approval — and South Dakotans didn't go for it.

The bill's sponsor, Republican state Sen. Erin Tobin, saw it as a way to reflect the state's progress in electing women and celebrating them. She said the amendment failed partly because of the word "pronoun" in the ballot question.

It entangled the effort with the broader conservative sentiment that "nonbinary" is not a legitimate gender identity. Others cited a lack of campaigning for or

against the measure and concerns over the financial cost of making a change.

Although "he" and "she" are inherently inclusive of many transgender people who use those pronouns, Noem has a track record opposing gender transitions.

Noem signed a bill in 2023 prohibiting gender-affirming care for youth and in 2022 signed a bill banning transgender girls and college-age women from playing in school sports leagues that match their gender identity. Noem resigned her office in late January to oversee the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under Trump, who issued an executive order last month directing the federal government to recognize only two sexes — male and female. Trump also signed an executive order Wednesday that intended to prohibit transgender athletes from participating in girls' and women's sports.

Trump emphasized his opposition to transgender rights in his 2024 presidential bid. Aligned political action committees spent tens of millions of dollars on anti-transgender attack ads. Had she been unfamiliar with the South Dakota measure, Tobin said she would have voted no based on how it read. The state's attorney general writes the titles and explanations for constitutional amendments. □

Trump says he will announce 25% steel and aluminum tariffs Monday, and more import duties are coming

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said he will announce on Monday that the United States will impose 25% tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports, including from Canada and Mexico, as well as other import duties later in the week.

"Any steel coming into the United States is going to have a 25% tariff," he told reporters Sunday on Air Force One as he flew from Florida to New

Orleans to attend the Super Bowl. When asked about aluminum, he responded, "aluminum, too" will be subject to the trade penalties.

Trump also reaffirmed that he would announce "reciprocal tariffs" — "probably Tuesday or Wednesday" — meaning that the U.S. would impose import duties on products in cases where another country has levied duties on U.S. goods. "If they are charging us 130% and we're charging them nothing, it's not going to stay

that way," he told reporters. Trump's comments are the latest example of his willingness to threaten, and in some cases to impose, import taxes. Tariffs are coming much earlier in his presidency than during his previous four years in the White House, when he prioritized tax cuts and deregulation.

Financial markets fell on Friday after Trump first said he would impose the reciprocal tariffs. Stock prices also dropped after a measure of



President Donald Trump, from right, speaks to reporters accompanied by Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Burgum's wife Kathryn Burgum, aboard Air Force One where Trump signed a proclamation declaring Feb. 9 "the first ever Gulf of America Day," as he travels from West Palm Beach, Fla. to New Orleans, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025.

Associated Press

consumer sentiment declined on Friday, largely because many respondents cited tariffs as a growing worry. The survey

also found that Americans are expecting inflation to tick up in the coming months because of the duties. □

House Republicans mull taxes on scholarships and changes to student loan programs

By **CHEYANNE MUMPHREY**
AP Education Writer

As Republicans in Congress look for ways to slash spending, some legislators are floating new taxes on college scholarships, an end to student loan repayment plans and a big hike in taxes on university endowments. The ideas affecting higher education are among many in circulation among House committees that are exploring ways to cover the cost of extending and expanding tax cuts passed in President Donald Trump's first term. The recommendations are still evolving, and it's unclear how close any of them will get to being implemented. Regardless, advocates across higher education say they are alarmed to see such proposals gain traction at all with Republicans.

"It's shocking to me because this amount of cuts is not happening in reaction to like a budget crisis, like a recession. This really feels different in the sense that it is not something that there is an external push or a need for. So, it feels more ideological in a way," said Jessica Thompson, a higher education policy expert with The Institute for College Access and Success.

Here is a look at possible federal budget cuts that would affect higher education under the Trump administration: Cutting programs that help students pay off college debt

The U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce has suggested



People walk past the John Harvard statue on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 17, 2024.

several possible ways to overhaul student loan programs. Some would reduce student access to federal aid for college.

On the chopping block potentially are several plans students can opt into to repay their students loans, including the SAVE plan introduced by the Biden administration. That plan doesn't require borrowers to make payments if they earn less than 225% of the federal poverty line — \$32,800 a year for a single person — and prevents interest from adding to balances as long as borrowers make their monthly payments. The SAVE plan was already put on hold after Republicans challenged it. Some plans do not appear to be targeted,

including one that caps loan payments based on borrowers' income level.

Another possible change would give borrowers additional opportunities to recover from defaults. While they currently can rehabilitate their loans just once, allowing them to make a certain number of consecutive payments to get out of default, the proposal would allow them to go through that process twice. The committee projected the new process could save the government millions of dollars but did not spell out how.

The timing is uncertain on when any of these proposals could surface. They could be considered as soon as this spring in a process known as

budget reconciliation that would allow Republicans to squeeze proposals through Congress purely on party-line votes. That would not be easy in the House, where Republicans hold the majority by just a few seats.

An end to tax-free status for scholarships

Scholarships and fellowships have been exempt from taxes as long as they are used for tuition and related expenses. That would change under another proposal that's up for consideration.

The changes could create new financial burdens for students and families, advocates say.

"There's been great progress in bringing down the costs of

higher education. Adjusted for inflation, public university tuition is less now than it was ten years ago," said Craig Lindwarm, senior vice president of governmental affairs with the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. "But as we look at some of the proposals that are options, many would increase costs on students and families, and I think (the proposals) are heading in the direction that most don't want to see, which is increasing expenses on students and families."

Increasing taxes on college endowments

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act currently requires some private nonprofit colleges and universities to pay a 1.4% tax on income from their endowments, which raised about \$244 million from 58 institutions in 2022. The committee suggests increasing that to a 14% tax and expanding which colleges would have to pay it.

Also being considered among hundreds of other ideas in circulation are fines for colleges and universities that violate students' rights under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which protects against discrimination toward students of shared ancestry. Such investigations often have been resolved through settlements calling for training and policy updates. Title VI is currently what is being used to investigate complaints of antisemitism on college campuses across the U.S. □

Associated Press

Lasers aid river search for debris from plane and helicopter collision near DC



Salvage crews pull up a part of a Black Hawk helicopter near the site in the Potomac River of a mid-air collision between an American Airlines jet and a Black Hawk helicopter at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, in Arlington, Va.

Associated Press

By **JOHN SEEWER**
Associated Press

Crews continuing to search for debris from the deadly collision of a passenger jet and Army helicopter near Washington used a plane outfitted with lasers to scan the bottom of the Potomac River early Saturday, the National Transportation Safety Board said. Large pieces of the jetliner and helicopter along with the remains of all 67 victims already were recovered earlier this week and crews now will spend

the coming days looking for smaller debris before finishing the work in about a week.

A plane operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and equipped with laser scanning technology flew at low altitudes over the crash site. The lasers are used to penetrate the river's surface and map the riverbed.

"All major pieces" of the two aircraft have been found, and investigators will examine them for any markings that could reveal the angle

of the collision, according to an NTSB statement released Saturday afternoon.

The NTSB said information collected will be part of its ongoing investigation into the Jan. 29 collision between the Army helicopter and an American Airlines flight over Washington, D.C. There were no survivors. President Donald Trump on Thursday blamed the collision on what he called an "obsolete" computer system used by U.S. air traffic controllers and vowed to replace it. □

Canada and Philippines are in final negotiations for defense pact to boost joint military exercises

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

Canada and the Philippines are in the final stages of negotiating a key defense pact that would allow their forces to hold larger military drills, said the Canadian ambassador to Manila while raising concerns over China's "provocative and unlawful actions" in the region.

Canada has been reinforcing its military presence in the Indo-Pacific region and has committed to help promote the rule of law and expand trade and investment.

That dovetails with Philippine efforts under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to broaden defense ties with friendly countries to bolster his country's external defense as it faces an increasingly assertive China in the disputed waters.

Canadian Ambassador David Hartman said Friday night that his country and the Philippines were "in the final stages of the negotiations of our status of forces visiting agreement that will enable us to have even more substantive participation in joint and multilateral training exercises and operations with the Philippines and allies here in the region."

Hartman spoke before Philippine national security



In this handout photo provided by Public Affairs Office Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine Navy personnel watch the Canadian vessel HMCS Montreal (FFH336) during the Multilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity being held in the West Philippine Sea, on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024. Associated Press

officials, foreign ambassadors and defense attaches aboard the HMCS Ottawa, a Royal Canadian Navy Halifax-class frigate on a port visit to Manila. The vessel will take part in a joint exercise off the Philippines next week, he said.

The Philippine military has staged multinational patrols and drills since last year with counterparts from the U.S., Japan, France, Australia and Canada, including in the South China Sea, infuriating

China.

China claims virtually the entire sea passage, a key global trade route, and has deployed coast guard and naval fleets and other vessels to guard what it says is its territory. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan also lay claims that clash with China's and territorial confrontations have flared particularly between Beijing and Manila in the last two years.

In August last year, Canada

joined the United States, Australia and the Philippines in air and naval maneuvers to promote the rule of law and unhindered passage in the South China Sea.

In an apparent response, China said it conducted air and sea combat patrols on the same day. Although no confrontations were reported, the Philippine military said three Chinese navy ships tailed the four-nation maneuvers off the western coast of the Philippines.

"We have been vocal in confronting the provocative and unlawful actions of the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea and the West Philippine Sea," Hartman said. "We will continue to do so."

Canada signed an agreement on defense cooperation with the Philippines last year. Another agreement signed in Ottawa in 2023 gave the Philippines access to data from Canada's "Dark Vessel Detection System," which harnesses satellite technology to track illegal vessels even if they switch off their location-transmitting devices.

The Philippine coast guard has accused Chinese coast guard ships and fishing vessels of switching off their location-transmitting devices to avoid detection and surveillance in the South China Sea. The Philippines has visiting forces agreements, which provide a legal framework for temporary visits of foreign troops and large-scale combat exercises, only with the United States and Australia. In July last year, the Philippines signed a similar accord with Japan, which still needs to be ratified by Japanese legislators.

The Philippines is in separate talks over defense pacts with France and New Zealand. □

North Korea's Kim slams U.S.-South Korea-Japan partnership and vows to boost his nuclear program

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said an elevated U.S. security partnership with South Korea and Japan poses a grave threat to his country and vowed to further bolster his nuclear weapons program, state media reported Sunday.

Kim has previously made similar warnings, but his latest statement implies again that the North Korean leader won't likely embrace President Donald Trump's overture to meet him and revive

diplomacy anytime soon. In a speech marking the 77th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army on Saturday, Kim said the U.S.-Japan-South Korea trilateral security partnership established under a U.S. plot to form a NATO-like regional military bloc is inviting military imbalance on the Korean Peninsula and "raising a grave challenge to the security environment of our state," according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

"Referring to a series of new plans for rapidly bolstering all

deterrence including nuclear forces, he clarified once again the unshakable policy of more highly developing the nuclear forces," KCNA said. Amid stalled diplomacy with the U.S. and South Korea in recent years, Kim has focused on enlarging and modernizing his arsenal of nuclear weapons. In response, the United States and South Korea have expanded their bilateral military exercises and trilateral training involving Japan. North Korea has lashed out at those drills, calling them rehearsals to invade the country.



In this undated photo provided Oct. 6, 2024, by the North Korean government, its leader Kim Jong Un, center, visits an artillery exercise at an undisclosed place in North Korea. Associated Press

Since his Jan. 20 inauguration, Trump has said he would reach out to Kim again as he boasted of his high-stakes summit with him during his first term. During a joint news conference with Japanese

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Friday, Trump said that "We will have relations with North Korea, with Kim Jong Un. I got along with him very well, as you know. I think I stopped the war." □

U.N. humanitarian chief says Gaza ceasefire has averted famine but any truce collapse brings danger

By **SAMY MAGDY**

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Famine has been mostly averted in Gaza as a surge of aid enters the territory during a fragile ceasefire, the United Nations humanitarian chief said Sunday. But he warned the threat could return quickly if the truce collapses.

Tom Fletcher spoke to The Associated Press after a two-day visit to Gaza, where hundreds of trucks carrying humanitarian aid have arrived each day since the ceasefire began on Jan. 19.

"The threat of famine, I think, is largely averted," Fletcher said in Cairo. "Those starvation levels are down from where they were before the ceasefire."

He spoke as concerns grow over whether the ceasefire can be extended and talks are meant to begin on its more difficult second phase. The six-week first phase is half-way through.

As part of the agreement, Israel said it would allow 600 aid trucks into Gaza each day, a major increase after months of aid officials expressing frustration about delays and insecurity hampering both the entry and distribution of food, medicines and other badly needed items. The U.N. humanitarian office has said more than 12,600 aid trucks have entered Gaza since the ceasefire took ef-



U.N. humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher speaks during an interview in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025.

fect.

Fletcher urged both Hamas, which quickly reasserted its control of the territory in the hours after the ceasefire took effect, and Israel to stick to the deal that has "saved so many lives."

"The conditions are still terrible, and people are still hungry," he said. "If the ceasefire falls, if the ceasefire breaks, then very quickly those (famine-like) conditions will come back again."

The internationally recognized mortality threshold for famine is two or more deaths a day per 10,000 people.

For months before the current ceasefire, food security monitors, U.N. officials and others had been warning of possible famine in parts of devastated Gaza, especially the north, which had been largely isolated since the earliest weeks of the 16-month war. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been able to return to the north under the ceasefire.

"We can't ... sit by and just allow these people to starve to death," Cindy McCain, the American head of the U.N. World Food Program, told CBS in December. The Biden ad-

ministration repeatedly urged Israel to allow more aid deliveries and warned that failing to do so could trigger U.S. restrictions on military support. Fletcher said more food and medical supplies are crucially needed for the territory of more than 2 million people, most of them displaced, and he expressed concerns about disease outbreaks due to the lack of basic health supplies. He also called for scaling up the delivery of tents and other shelters to those who have returned to their home areas, as winter continues.

"We must get tens of thou-

sands of tents very rapidly in, so that people who are moving back, particularly moving back into the north, are able to take shelter from those conditions," he said.

Fletcher entered the Palestinian territory through the Erez crossing between Israel and northern Gaza, where he said he drove through "bombed-out, flattened and pulverized" areas.

"You can't see the difference between a school or a hospital or a home," he said of the north.

He said he saw people trying to find where their homes had been and collecting the bodies of loved ones from the rubble. He saw dogs looking for corpses in the rubble, too.

"It is a horror movie. It's a horror show," he said. "It breaks your heart again and again and again. You drive for miles and miles and miles, and this is all you see."

Fletcher acknowledged that some Palestinians have been angry at the international community over the war and its response.

"There was despair and anger. And I can understand the anger at the world that this has happened to them," he said. "But there was also a sense of defiance as well. People were saying, 'We will go back to our homes. We will go back to the places that we have lived for generations, and we will rebuild.'"

Aga Khan, the leader of Ismaili Muslims, laid to rest in Egypt during private burial ceremony



Relatives of Prince Karim Al-Hussaini, the Aga Khan IV and 49th hereditary imam of the Shiite Ismaili Muslims, who died Tuesday in Portugal, walk during a funeral ceremony at the Aga Khan mausoleum, in Aswan, Egypt, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025.

Associated Press

Associated Press

ASWAN, Egypt (AP) — The Aga Khan IV was laid to rest on Sunday at a private ceremony in Aswan, Egypt.

The death of Prince Karim - the 49th hereditary imam of the Shiite Ismaili Muslims - was announced Tuesday by the Aga Khan Development Network and the Ismaili religious community. His son, 53-year-old Rahim Al-Hussaini, has been named as the Aga Khan V, the spiritual leader of the world's millions of Ismaili Muslims, in accordance with his father's will.

On Saturday, a private funeral service took place at

the Ismaili community center in Lisbon attended by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Spain's King Emeritus Juan Carlos and Portugal's President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. The Aga Khan is considered by his followers to be a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad and is treated as a head of state.

The governor of Aswan welcomed Prince Karim's family at the southern Egyptian province's airport on Saturday. "When his will was opened, it was found that he had requested to be buried in Aswan near his grandfather, Sultan

Muhammad Shah, and his grandmother, Om Habiba," said Maj. Gen. Ismail Kamal. Ismaili mourners marched as bells rang during the burial ceremony in the country's southern Aswan province, as Prince Karim's body was taken in a van. They carried his body, draped in a white shroud, and placed it on a yacht on the Nile River.

Prince Karim, 88, was given the title of "His Highness" by Queen Elizabeth in July 1957, two weeks after his grandfather, the Aga Khan III, unexpectedly made him heir to the family's 1,300-year dynasty as leader of the Ismaili Muslim sect. □

National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.



The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest

to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as

the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas.□

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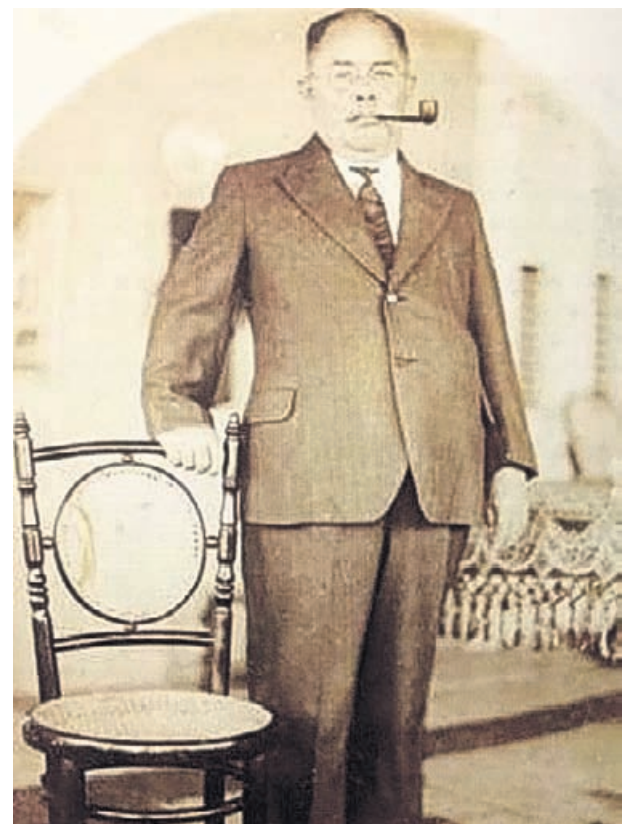
Adriaan Laclé One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century

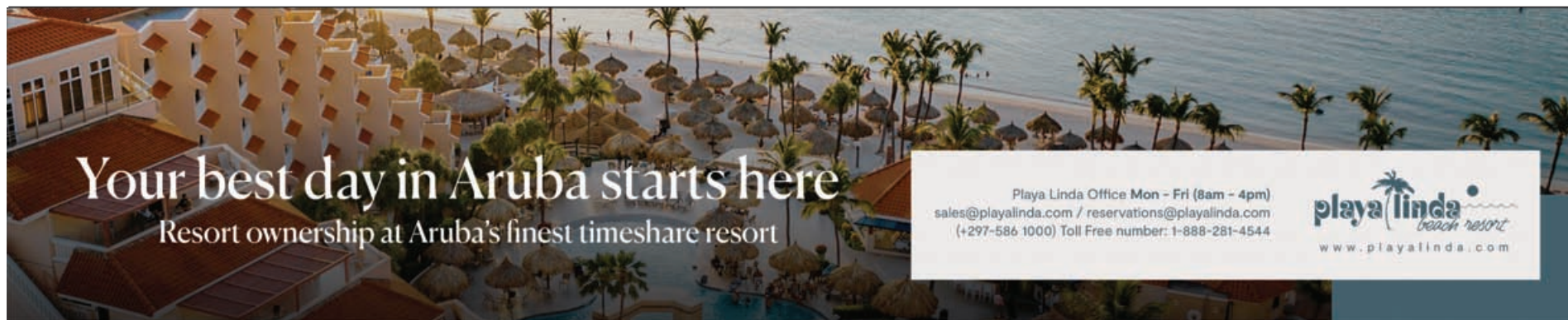
(Oranjestad)—The name Adriaan Laclé may ring a bell to locals as one of the bigger roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adriaan Laclé was a rich businessman, well-known for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his hay day he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected his success and good taste. Today his house still stands in good condition and can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad.

Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth. During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Laclé and Maria Veneranda Laclé, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's mansion functions as a townhall, used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them—though currently under renovation after years left in ruin.

Source: De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba) by Evert Bongers.





Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick “to-go” breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of

meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening “meal” can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our



Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In



the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means “bag”. Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the



Snakes you may encounter on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—If you have ever or will ever go off-roading on the island, you may encounter three types of snakes that are dominant on the island. The Cascabel, Santanero and Boa differ from each other in a couple ways, and local perspective on each one may help you understand what you need to do if you ever were to encounter one during your touring session on the island.

Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. In fact, it's the only venomous snake native to the island. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it, as it could not only be dangerous, but this snake is also endemic to the island, and its preservation has become a legal mandate for all residents and visitors.

Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting



trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol. Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's

abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.

Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is a small fella, typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. Native as well to the island, this snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans, but can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and



lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. Newborn Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous but are what is called constrictor snakes; they kill by wrapping themselves around a prey and suffocating them. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly is white or cream colored with numerous black spots.

Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly. Boas are a non-native species and are invasive to the island, risking the population of native lizards and birds. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats. If you ever encounter a Boa, please do not approach it. Instead, please call the Arikok National Park, as they are experienced in handling Boas. □



Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.



Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car

when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: visitaruba.com

Aruba: The island of Aloes

ORANJESTAD – Aloe vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island's economy endures to this day.

The leaves of Aloe vera contain a good amount of gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but powerful laxative, and it is also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.

According to the website of Royal Aruba Aloe, Aloe vera was in-



troduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of

Aloes."

Under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871), aloe experienced a boom, which is why there is a road named after him, which goes through the aloe fields. In the 19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin for laxative, which was imported abroad to the United States and Europe. The aloin from Aruba and Curaçao was known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.

However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aruba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from producing laxative to producing skin care. An interesting fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!

The impact and relevance of aloe is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and deco-



ration, houses are also decorated with aloe motifs, and at some point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes." And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba's coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island.

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.



CROSSWORD

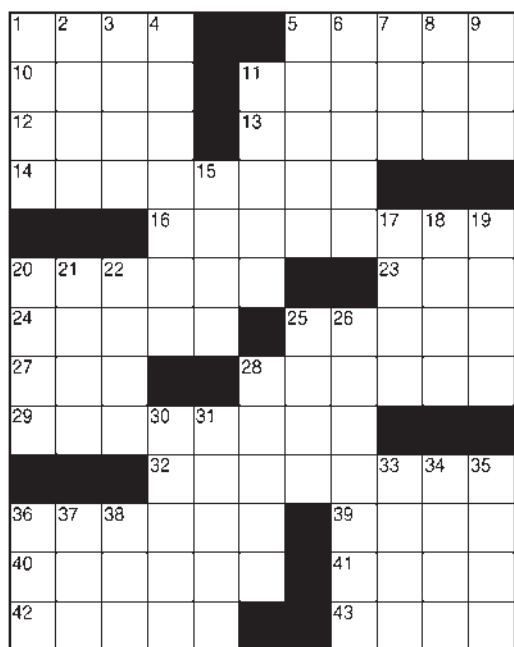
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Full range
5 Tart fruits
10 Except for
11 Riddle question
12 Clumsy ones
13 Link
14 Some ever-greens
16 Flipped fish-eaters
20 Read
23 Diamond club
24 Pop stars
25 Port-au-Prince's nation
27 "Knives Out" star de Armas
28 Horse restraint
29 Remote
32 One way to play
36 Spot for an X
39 — avis
40 Vast expanses
41 Steel ingredient
42 Borscht base
43 Basilica part

DOWN

- 1 Since
2 Curbside cry
3 Finished
4 Piquant
5 Pumps, e.g.
6 Baggy
7 Sturdy wood
8 Outback bird
9 Tentative taste
11 Question of place
15 Tamblyn of "West Side Story"
17 Somewhat
18 Past due
19 Mix up
20 Singer Edith
21 Writer Ferber
22 Crowd sound
25 Slugger Aaron
26 Mali neighbor
28 Smarts
30 E's musical equivalent
31 Diving birds
33 Tomb-stone name
34 Debate group
35 Rational
36 Hope of comedy
37 One in the hand
38 Director Ang



2-8

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-8

CRYPTOQUOTE

QDFF, Z XLVQ LVQ. Z XLVQ T
FZMMFD CVSD WVQ CPEW T
GZCAFD MWZLI FZXD T GLVQKTF
ETL CDTL MV T AD SGVL. — GBFHZT
AFTMW

Cryptoquote: I OFTEN MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING THAT SOMETHING THAT IS OBVIOUS TO ME IS JUST AS OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE ELSE. — CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE



Cruise ship Schedule: February 11 - 18 2025

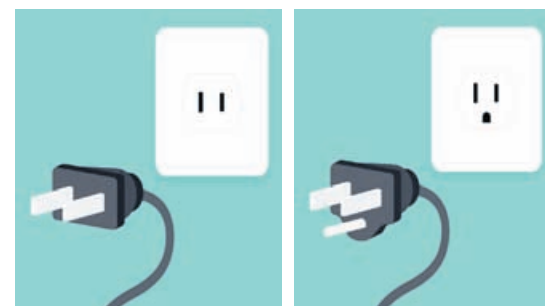
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	11	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	12	SEA CLOUD SPIRIT	08.00	14.00	G	1
		GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
THU	13	SEVEN SEAS NAVIGATOR	07.00	17.00	B	1
		NORWEGIAN JADE	07.00	20.00	C	1
		MARELLA DISCOVERY	08.00	20.00	I	1
SAT	15	MAJESTIC PRINCESS	07.00	16.00	B	1
		AIDAPERLA	08.00	18.00	C	1
		STAR PRIDE	06.00	18.00	I	1
MON	17	RESILIENT LADY	09.00	23.59	C	1
TUE	18	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN VIVA	13.00	21.00	I	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Efforts to put carbon dioxide underground face less support in Trump's second term



Carbon dioxide and other pollutant billows from a stack at PacifiCorp's coal-fired Naughton Power Plant, near where Bill Gates company, TerraPower plans to build an advanced, nontraditional nuclear reactor, Jan. 13, 2022, in Kemmerer, Wyo.

Associated Press

By MEAD GRUVER
Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Putting carbon dioxide from power plants and industrial facilities underground where it won't contribute to global warming could see less federal support and enthusiasm under President Donald Trump. But experts and industry advocates doubt demand for the technology will go away as long as utilities face state-level climate change goals.

Trump has vowed to "drill, baby, drill" for fossil fuels and ordered the U.S. to withdraw from the landmark Paris agreement to try to limit Earth's warming. Meanwhile, his new energy secretary, Chris Wright, has vowed to prioritize "affordable, reliable and secure energy" in a policy-setting order that criticizes zero-carbon goals and makes no mention of carbon capture.

Carbon capture's doubters include both conservative

policy organizations and environmental groups. Even so, its outlook in the U.S. isn't all bleak.

Carbon capture got a \$12 billion boost under Joe Biden through increased tax incentives and funding through the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. With projects scattered nationwide, including dozens in Republican states, there may be less appetite to include them in budget cuts, said analyst Rohan Dighe with the energy and resources research firm Wood Mackenzie.

But a broader trend away from "environmental, social and governance" investing, or ESG, could sap momentum for carbon capture, Dighe said by email.

"So even absent government rollback of funding, we could see fewer project announcements and movements due to lower interest in decarbonizing," Dighe wrote. Carbon capture involves

separating carbon dioxide from the emissions of power plants and other industrial facilities and pumping it underground. The goal can be either to store it permanently so it doesn't contribute to climate change, or to pressurize an oilfield to help increase production.

Carbon capture has deep support in Republican Wyoming, home to projects including an ExxonMobil plant that separates CO₂ from sour gas wells for use in aging oilfields and another experimenting with putting power plant CO₂ underground. In 2021, GOP Gov. Mark Gordon pledged to make the sparsely populated state — which exports 12 times more energy than it consumes — not just carbon neutral but "carbon negative."

Carbon capture features prominently in that plan. In 2020, Wyoming, which contributed tens of millions of dollars for a carbon capture research facility at an oper-

ating power plant, became one of the first states to regulate underground carbon dioxide injection itself rather than through the EPA. That list now also includes Louisiana, North Dakota and West Virginia.

But there's also growing skepticism in Wyoming, the nation's top coal producer. With Trump back in office, some question the need for greenhouse gas goals. □



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Downtown

4 Nations Face-Off ends hockey's long wait for an international tournament with the NHL's best

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

It has been more than a decade since the NHL last participated in the Olympics and almost nine years since the league's top players took part in an international tournament. That wait is about to end when the puck drops on the 4 Nations Face-Off involving the United States, Canada, Sweden and Finland. The slimmed-down event taking place in Montreal and Boston lacks history, tradition and some of the top talent from elsewhere on Earth, but the prolonged gap between the 2016 World Cup of Hockey and this makes it a must-see, premier showcase of the sport.

"It's been a while," U.S. captain Auston Matthews said. "It's something that the players have been craving and looking forward to, and I think the fans, as well. I think it's going to be great for the game." The talent

Matthews in red, white and blue alongside Jack Eichel and Matthew Tkachuk. Sidney Crosby, Connor McDavid and Nathan MacKinnon suiting up with Canada's Maple Leaf on their chests. Sweden and Finland renewing the Scandinavian nations' intense rivalry. Everything from the star power to the format to the anticipation of a return to the Olympics in Milan in 2026 has players and coaches thrilled



Team Canada's Sidney Crosby celebrates after scoring against Team Russia during the first period of a World Cup of Hockey semifinal game, Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016 in Toronto.

Associated Press

to be a part of it.

"When you put guys together representing their countries, I think it brings out the best in them," said Crosby, who helped Canada win Olympic gold in 2010 and 2014. "If you look at the rosters, I think there's a lot to get excited about when you look at that and you look at the matchups and best on best — everyone competing against each other internationally. For people that are hockey fans, that's what you love to see. I think for that reason alone and the fact that it's been a while will just add to

it." Sweden has 2020 playoff MVP and two-time Stanley Cup champion Victor Hedman. Finland has reigning Cup-winning captain Aleksander Barkov, who was very early in his career when he helped his country take home bronze in Sochi 11 years ago. "I remember every single moment there," said Barkov, who's one of eight Florida Panthers players at the 4 Nations. "We've been talking about this tournament for a long time. Now it's here." Finland announced Sunday that Philadelphia's Rasmus Ristolainen is out because of

injury and is being replaced by fellow defenseman Nikolas Matinpalo.

The format

Unlike the Olympics, there isn't a surefire spot in the quarterfinals of an elimination tournament this time, so every game matters. Each team faces one another in round-robin play, with the top two meeting in the championship. "I truly believe this is a tournament where you're basically playing three Game 7s," Canada coach Jon Cooper said. "There's no, really, margin for error." Canada and Sweden open the tournament

Wednesday night, with the U.S. and Finland playing 24 hours later. Sweden-Finland and U.S.-Canada follow on Saturday before the action shifts to Montreal.

A regulation win is worth three points, a shootout or overtime win is worth two points and a shootout or overtime loss is one point.

The fun

After the NHL skipped the 2018 Pyeongchang Games and pulled out of the 2022 Beijing Games because of pandemic-related scheduling issues, the league, union, International Ice Hockey Federation and International Olympic Committee struck a deal for players to go to Milan in 2026 and the French Alps in 2030. The 4 Nations provides a chance to see how players handle a high-stakes competition, but those involved don't see it as just a prep tournament for the next Olympics.

"When that puck drops on the first game of the tournament, zero people will be thinking about the Olympics and everybody will be thinking — on our team anyway — about winning the hockey game," Cooper said. "I don't think at one time anybody's going to sit here and say, 'This is a stepping stone for the Olympics.'" That's what the next 10 months or so are for. Men's hockey in Milan begins on Feb. 11, 2026. □



Olympic champion Malaika Mihambo of Germany jumps from the new look 40 centimetres Take-Off Zone, developed by World Athletics to reduce the number of invalid jumps during the long jump competition at the ISTAF athletics indoor meeting in Dusseldorf, Germany, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025.

Associated Press

DÜSSELDORF, Germany (AP) — World Athletics' ex-

perimental change to the long jump made its debut

A step too far? Experimental long jump change makes its debut at ISTAF indoor meet

at the ISTAF indoor meet on Sunday when two-time world champion Malaika Mihambo won under the new rule.

Mihambo jumped 6.87 meters on her fourth attempt in the absence of most of her international rivals, adding to the German's wins at meets in Dortmund and Karlsruhe this year.

It was her first win using a new-look take-off zone rather than the take-off board that has been the norm in this event. Sunday marked the first time the rule was tested on a larger stage, with its proponents

saying it will cut down on the number of fouls.

"The momentum is much better, as if you're jumping with just half a foot from the board," Mihambo said of the new take-off area.

Sweet spot

The take-off zone is 40 centimeters long, compared to the take-off board's 20, and every jump from the zone is measured from the athlete's take-off point with the aid of cameras, as opposed to the traditional method of measuring jumps from the end of the board. The change eliminates some of the art and

science of hitting the sweet spot on the board at top speed for a far leap.

Distances were also measured according to the traditional method from the end of the board for the official world rankings. Dutch athlete Pauline Hondema jumped furthest using the traditional measurement with a jump of 6.65, ahead of Poland's Anna Matuszewicz (6.40). Mihambo was third with her only valid jump under the previous system of 6.39.

Like Mihambo, her coach, Uli Knapp, was also in favor of the new rule. □

Bucks announce Giannis Antetokounmpo out of All-Star Game with injury

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Milwaukee forward Giannis Antetokounmpo will not play in next weekend's All-Star Game because of a strained left calf, meaning NBA Commissioner Adam Silver will have to pick a replacement.

Bucks coach Doc Rivers confirmed Antetokounmpo's status Sunday, with the team ruling him out of a game against Philadelphia and indicating that he'll likely also be out for games Monday at home against Golden State and Wednesday at Minnesota. "We've just been monitoring it, and it just hasn't improved enough for us to play him," Rivers said.

"If this was a playoff game, would he play? Probably yes. But this is not. And we want to make sure he's playing in the playoffs."

Antetokounmpo missed Milwaukee's one-round appearance in last season's playoffs with a left calf strain. The Bucks lost to Indiana in six games.

Antetokounmpo last played Feb. 2 in the Bucks' 123-119 loss to the Memphis Grizzlies. He was listed as unavailable due to right patella tendinopathy for the Bucks' 125-96 loss at Oklahoma City the following night, and he's been out with the calf issue ever since.

He missed a 112-102 victory at Charlotte on Wednesday and a 115-110 loss at Atlanta on Friday. He went through warmups in Charlotte, but was scratched just before the game.

Antetokounmpo was the leader in fan votes for the All-Star Game, which will be played in San Francisco on Feb. 16 with a new mini-tournament format.

Antetokounmpo was to play on Team Chuck, the eight-man squad drafted last week by TNT analyst Charles Barkley. Antetokounmpo was the fourth of the 24 players drafted by Barkley, Shaquille O'Neal and Kenny Smith to the All-Star rosters.

Team Chuck has a roster with a very international feel: Nikola Jokic of Serbia, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander of Canada, Victor Wembanyama of France, Pascal Siakam of Cameroon, Alperen Sengun



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo tries to get past Memphis Grizzlies' Luke Kennard during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

of Turkey, Karl-Anthony Towns (whose mother is Dominican) and Donovan Mitchell (whose

mother is from Panama). It is possible that Silver may have to make another deci-

sion on an All-Star replacement in the coming days as well. Dallas forward Anthony

Davis — newly acquired from the Los Angeles Lakers — left his Mavericks debut on Saturday after feeling what he described as tightness in his groin and quadriceps area. Davis has also been dealing with an abdominal strain, one that kept him out of his final two games with the Lakers before the trade and the first two he could have played with the Mavs.

"It's nothing serious," Davis said.

The 30-year-old Antetokounmpo ranks second in the NBA in scoring (31.8) and fifth in rebounding (12.2) per game. Rivers is hoping Antetokounmpo can play when the Bucks get to post-All-Star matchups on Feb. 20.

"We're really hoping that when we come out of the break, we have our team," Rivers said. "That's the hope. □"



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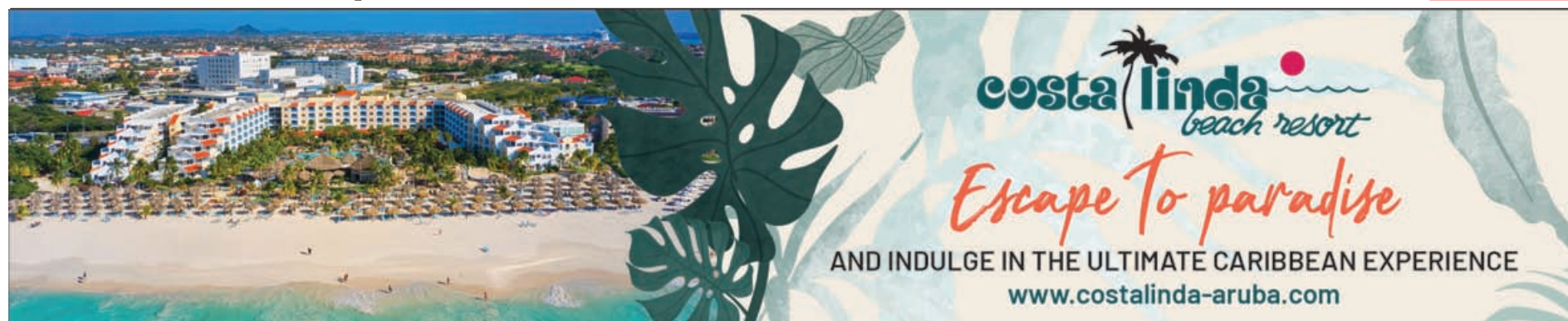


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Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic

French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.



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Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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